

## ADL is caught in espionage scandal in San Francisco

by Jeffrey Steinberg

The Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith (ADL) has been implicated in the theft of classified files from the San Francisco Police Department (SFPD), which may have then been passed on to the governments of Israel and the Republic of South Africa. According to a report first published in the *San Francisco Chronicle* on Jan. 15, a San Francisco police intelligence officer, Sgt. Tom Gerard, is under criminal investigation by both the district attorney and the Federal Bureau of Investigation for having allegedly accepted over \$20,000 from a suspected South African agent to provide secret police files on Bay Area "hate groups." Some of those files, according to the *Chronicle's* Matier and Ross Report, wound up in the San Francisco and Los Angeles offices of the ADL.

According to statements by some of Gerard's SFPD colleagues, the 25-year veteran of the force was actively working with Israeli intelligence by no later than 1985. He was the department's official liaison to the FBI and other federal law enforcement agencies at the time. Gerard continued to have access to federal agency files until last November. Thus, the ADL, the Israelis, and South Africans may have tapped into an intelligence vein that went far beyond the San Francisco department's own surveillance and intelligence files.

### ADL offices raided

On Dec. 10, 1992, police searched the San Francisco and Los Angeles offices of the ADL and discovered information obtained from "a national police computer network." Although ADL San Francisco regional director Richard Hirschhaut told reporters that the searches were conducted with the ADL's cooperation, *EIR* learned that the searches were ordered by Superior Court Judge Lenard Louie. The sealed search warrant signed by Judge Louie also ordered police to search a Sausalito, California houseboat owned by Gerard. According to news accounts, that search also turned up con-

fidential police files.

Gerard fled the United States in November of last year and is now believed to be living in Puerto Princess on the Philippines island of Palawan. He resigned from the police department in a letter from the Philippines shortly before police searched his houseboat and the ADL offices. The United States and the Philippines do not have an extradition treaty, so the prospects of Gerard being brought back to be prosecuted are remote. However, sources in the San Francisco Police Department have told reporters that they anticipate indictments in the case within weeks.

In 1991, Gerard was part of an "ADL law enforcement mission to Israel." By his own accounts, he took part in the Israeli government's airlift of Ethiopian Jews from Addis Ababa to Israel. Between October 1982 and November 1984, according to police records, Gerard was in El Salvador working for the CIA as a demolition expert. He briefly quit the police department during this period, but was re-hired in January 1985 and placed in an important assignment within the department's intelligence division, monitoring Arab-Americans thought to have possible ties to Middle East terrorist networks. In 1988 he was reassigned out of the intelligence division and to the narcotics squad and later to a unit monitoring street gang activities.

### A timely warning

*EIR's* counterintelligence newsletter *Investigative Leads*, in a special issue published in July 1992, warned that the ADL was aggressively infiltrating law enforcement agencies on behalf of organized crime and Israeli intelligence: "Dozens of police chiefs, sheriffs and public safety directors have been brought to Israel on all-expense-paid junkets to meet with the National Police, the Mossad and the Israeli Defense Forces. . . . Given the central role played by the ADL in

the Jonathan Jay Pollard Israeli-Soviet spy ring case, such collaboration with the ADL and Israeli intelligence agencies poses a direct threat to U.S. national security.”

In November 1985, Pollard, a Navy intelligence analyst with top security clearances, was arrested and charged with stealing classified Pentagon secrets and passing them on to Israel. Pentagon investigations revealed that defense secrets stolen by Pollard may have been passed on to the KGB in return for the loosening of immigration restrictions on Soviet Jews wishing to go to Israel. The day of Pollard's arrest, ADL national chairman Kenneth Bialkin flew to Israel to confer with top government officials and assess the damage. He arranged a Washington lawyer for Pollard's Israeli intelligence recruiter, Air Force Col. Aviem Sella. Reports at the time indicated that Sella's wife was an employee of the ADL's legal department.

The Pollard affair was not the first time that the ADL was caught aiding foreign intelligence agencies in espionage operations on American soil. In 1967, a longtime employee of the B'nai B'rith International, Saul Joftes, sued B'nai B'rith and ADL officials for firing him. Joftes had objected when he was ordered to set up a front for the Mossad inside B'nai B'rith to aid Israeli infiltration of U.S. business organizations and government agencies.

The Israeli government case officer on that early 1960s spy effort was Uri Ra'an. At the time of the events described in the Joftes lawsuit (*Joftes v. Rabbi Jay Kaufmann*, CA 3271-67, District of Columbia), Ra'an was director of information at the Israeli consulate in New York City. Ra'an later became the head of a national security graduate studies program at the Tufts University Fletcher School of Diplomacy in Boston, where one of his prize students was Jonathan Jay Pollard. Besides helping Pollard to get his job with the Navy, Ra'an helped a Pollard classmate, Mira Lansky Boland, to land a job with the Central Intelligence Agency. In 1982, after working for the CIA and later as a Pentagon consultant, Lansky Boland became a top official in the ADL's Washington office.

The Israel-South Africa connection mooted in the Gerard case is also not new. In the mid-1980s, an adviser to the Office of the Prime Minister, Shabtai Kalmanowitch, was arrested in Israel as a KGB spy and supposedly convicted in a secret trial. Kalmanowitch had been involved in Israeli "business" dealings in South Africa involving West German organized crime figures who ran a gambling empire in Bophuthatswana, one of the black homelands in the R.S.A. Recently, Israeli sources have told *EIR* that Kalmanowitch was serving as the go-between for Israeli intelligence and the KGB in passing on Pollard's classified documents to Moscow (see *Feature, EIR*, Jan. 22, 1993).

### **New book details crime ties**

Senior ADL officials, including current executive director Abraham Foxman, are reportedly cringing over the implications of the Gerard case. Foxman, according to one New

York City journalist, has refused to answer any questions about the office raids in Los Angeles and San Francisco and is "deeply depressed." Foxman and the ADL's worries are compounded by *EIR*'s recent release of a book exposing of the League's ties to organized crime and foreign intelligence agencies. *The Ugly Truth about the ADL*, released on Jan. 6, is widely circulating in the United States, Ibero-America, and Europe. It details the ADL's 80-year history of fronting for organized crime, its ongoing ties to the National Crime Syndicate of the late Meyer Lansky, and the roles of convicted junk bond swindlers Michael Milken and Ivan Boesky, along with others suspected of laundering illegal narcotics proceeds, in funding the League's activities.

The book accuses the ADL of collusion with the former East German secret police agency, the Stasi, and the Soviet KGB in such efforts as the coverup of the assassination of Swedish Prime Minister Olof Palme in February 1986.

The ADL and its closely allied American-Israeli Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC) also suffered a serious blow last July when a member of AIPAC's dirty tricks unit, Gregory Slobodkin, quit in protest over those groups' McCarthyite tactics against Jewish organizations and leaders advocating a peaceful solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict. In the July 1992 issue of *The Washington Report on Middle East Affairs*, Slobodkin wrote: "Just as McCarthy's permanent investigations subcommittee labeled criticism of specific policies of the U.S. government as 'anti-American,' or 'pro-Soviet,' AIPAC labels criticism of Israeli government policies 'anti-Israel,' 'pro-Arab,' or 'pro-PLO.' Still worse, is the pro-Israel lobby's redefinition of 'anti-Semitism' to include any such criticism of Israel or its actions." The Slobodkin article catalogued specific dirty tricks carried out by AIPAC and ADL against political opponents.

Arab-American organizations are up in arms about the Gerard case and its implications. Christine Totah, a spokeswoman for the Arab American Democratic Club in San Francisco told the *San Francisco Chronicle*: "It is one thing for the San Francisco police to keep track of different communities—they keep files on all sorts of groups. But they have this guy who sells this information to foreign governments—God knows how they are going to use it." In 1985, Alex Odeh, a leader of the Arab-American Anti-Discrimination Committee (AADC) in Santa Monica, was murdered by a pipe bomb, planted by members of the Jewish Defense League. The JDL, according to a recent biography of its founder Rabbi Meir Kahane, was steered by the Mossad and at least one top official of the ADL.

ADL San Francisco regional director Hirschhaut claims that "under no circumstances whatsoever does the ADL maintain files on Arab-American individuals or organizations in this country." But in 1991, the ADL issued a research report titled "The Anti-Israel Lobby Today: An Examination of the Themes and Tactics of an Evolving Propaganda Movement," which included dossiers on ten Arab-American groups which are being closely monitored by the ADL.